

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Figures 2 and 3 are now on separate sheets.

In Figure 4A, numeral 20 has been amended to be numeral 3.

Lead lines have been extended for numerals 3 and 11 of Figure 5, and numeral 11 and letter B of Figure 6.

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 16, 18-21, and 29 were indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter.

New claim 31 is based on claims 15 and 16. New claim 32 is based on claims 15, 17, and 18. The new dependent claims are based on previous dependent claims.

Allowance of all the new claims is solicited.

The title of the invention has been amended to Inspecting System for Security Documents.

A substitute specification is provided, and a marked-up copy thereof which amends "security support" to "security document". No new matter is entered by way of this amendment.

The claims were also amended to replace "security support" with "security document".

The drawings were objected to.

Note that as to Figure 4B, the preliminary amendment replaced Figure 4B, reproduced below. As was noted at the time, in Figure 4B, the first occurrence of the numeral 5 is replaced with the capital letter S.

In the present amendment, the lead lines have been extended for numerals 3 and 11 of Figure 5, and numeral 11 and letter B of Figure 6. Figures 2 and 3 are now on separate

sheets. In Figure 4A, numeral 20 has been amended to be numeral 3.

All of the drawing and specification objections are believed to have been fully addressed and remedied.

Claim 15 and 17 were rejected under section 112, second paragraph.

Claim 15 has been amended to recite a transparency inspecting device comprised of i) an image acquiring device, ii) an illuminating device, and iii) an electromagnetic inspecting beam arranged between the image acquiring device and the illuminating device. The transparency inspecting system/device is illustrated at least by Figure 4A providing a schematic sectional view of a transparency inspecting system according to the invention while a security document is passing, and by Figure 4B when no security document is in the inspecting system.

Claim 17 is amended to recite that the acquisition camera comprises sensitive elements located on a plane where an image of the security document forms, the sensitive elements picking up the formed image of the security document, that the path comprises a lens (21) which focuses the light source onto a focal point (F), through which said security document is made to pass as a target, and that along the optical path at or upstream of said lens (21), shading means (22) is provided to define a cone of shade (5) in correspondence on the sensitive elements of said camera (5). See Figure 4B.

No new matter is entered by way of these amendments.

Withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection is solicited.

The above is believed to fully address all the outstanding formal matters, and to be fully responsive to the pending Official Action.

Claim 15 was rejected as anticipated by BELLUCHE 2,567,049.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

BELLUCHE does not comprise an image acquiring device.

Moreover, it must be pointed out that the gripping system illustrated by BELLUCHE is manually operated - hence driving cylinder 53 moving at very low speeds, it not even being stationary - and provides a simple double-cam system eccentrics 41 driven by a cam follower 44 on levers 45, which cam follower cooperates with cam segments 46) for lowering/raising spring fingers 40 (column 5, lines 30-68) on a diameter always larger than the nominal rotational diameter of the gripping point. The end of the finger 40 can be in only two positions: either at rest on cylinder 53 or slightly raised by eccentrics 41. Below the end of finger 40 (i.e. the gripping point) there is no yielding surface which allows said finger to lower below the surface of cylinder 53 or which causes it to at least partially go back into recess 35. In substance, there is no radially-movable block which allows the gripping point of the security

document to be lowered with respect to the nominal rotational diameter of the working surface of the cylinder 35.

Elements 94 and 94' are simply register devices for keeping the edges of the sheet aligned on the cylinder (see column 9, lines 45-50). Devices 94 hence have nothing to do with gripping devices.

Again, devices 94 cannot be intended as calibration blades either. As a matter of fact, firstly devices 94 are mounted integral with the cylinder, and hence they are not "fixedly placed in the proximity of the inspection axis" (as in claim 15), the inspection axis (of the inspection system) being of course fixed with respect to the environment and not integral with the rotating cylinder. Moreover, devices 94, being located on the side edges of the sheet, could never interfere with gripping devices 40: on the contrary, in main claim 15 it is specified that "the gripping point...able to be lowered...so as not to interfere with calibration blades". Therefore, in addition to the aforesaid, devices 94 cannot be considered equivalent or assimilated to the calibration blades of the invention.

Thus, it is clear that all recited features of the invention are not disclosed by BELLUCHE. Therefore, withdrawal of the anticipation rejection and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 17 and 22 were rejected as obvious over BELLUCHE in view of HASLOP 4,296,326. This rejection need not be

addressed as the dependent claims are believed allowable, at least for depending from an allowable claim.

Allowance of all the claims is solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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REL/lrs

APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following items:

- new Abstract
- replacement drawing sheets
- substitute specification and marked-up copy of specification